

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 /144 R

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EUR/RPM - JKORNBLUM

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R 252159Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652:XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES FREER MOVEMENT

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 21 CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SPRINGSTEEN, CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR SPACIL PRESSED FOR
SOME ASSURANCES THAT CONCEPT OF FREER MOVEMENT OF PERSONS
AND IDEAS WOULD NOT IMPINGE ON SOVEREIGNTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA
OR OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

2. SPACIL NOTED THAT GOC WAS IN FAVOR OF INCREASED
COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES BUT THESE WOULD HAVE TO CONFORM
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TO "OUR OWN INTERNAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS." HE SAID THAT

THE WESTERN PRESS GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FREER MOVEMENT ISSUE WAS TO BE USED TO IMPOSE WESTERN VIEWS ON SOCIALIST STATES. SPACIL ASSERTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD MAKE SOME "ADJUSTMENTS" IN ITS INTERNAL REGULATIONS TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED EXCHANGES BUT IT COULD MAKE NO CHANGES WHICH WOULD RUN COUNTER TO, OR INVOLVE ABANDONMENT OF, CZECHOSLOVAK POLITICAL SYSTEM. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SPACIL SAID GOC WANTED TO KNOW HOW US INTENDED TO RECONCILE NEED TO MAINTAIN EACH COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY WITH CONCEPT OF FREER MOVEMENT.

3. SPRINGSTEEN ASSERTED THAT IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY STATE. BUT CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE WITHOUT SUCH INTERFERENCE. IN DIVIDED FAMILIES ISSUE, FOR EXAMPLE, WE FEEL THAT DOING AWAY WITH ARBITRARY DELAYS AND OBSTACLES IN REJOINING OF CLOSE RELATIVES WOULD NOT INVOLVE INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNAL LAWS OF ANY COUNTRY. SPACIL OBSERVED THAT EXIT VISA PROBLEM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS RELATED TO SHORTAGE OF DOLLARS AND OTHER CURRENCIES. THE GOC DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOREIGN CURRENCIES TO PERMIT TOURISTS TO TRAVEL TO THE WEST AT WILL. SPRINGSTEEN NOTED THAT OTHER STATES AT VARIOUS TIMES HAD IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON AMOUNTS OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES ITS TOURISTS COULD TAKE ABROAD, BUT THESE RESTRICTIONS DID NOT MEAN THAT SOME WOULD-BE TOURISTS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

4. SPACIL CONCLUDED DISCUSSION ON FREER MOVEMENT BY SAYING THAT DURING CSCE DEBATE ON THIRD BASKET, QUESTION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AS AN "IMPORTANT FACTOR". ONLY IF THIS IS THE CASE, WOULD CONSENSUS BE POSSIBLE ON THIS AGENDA ITEM.

5. SPACIL ASKED FOR US POSITION ON CZECHOSLOVAK PROPOSAL THAT CSCE SET UP PERMANENT ADVISOR COMMITTEE. SPRINGSTEEN REPLIED THAT OUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER HAD NOT CHANGED; WE FELT IT WAS PREMATURE AT THIS POINT TO TAKE A FIRM STAND FOR OR AGAINST SUCH POS-CSCE MACHINERY. SUCH MACHINERY WOULD HAVE TO SERVE A DEFINITE NEED, AND IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT THIS NEED EXISTS.

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WE ARE PREPARED IN ANY CASE, TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THIS ISSUE AT A LATER JUNCTURE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE190835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730911/aaaaahww.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES FREER MOVEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, CZ
To: PRAGUE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005